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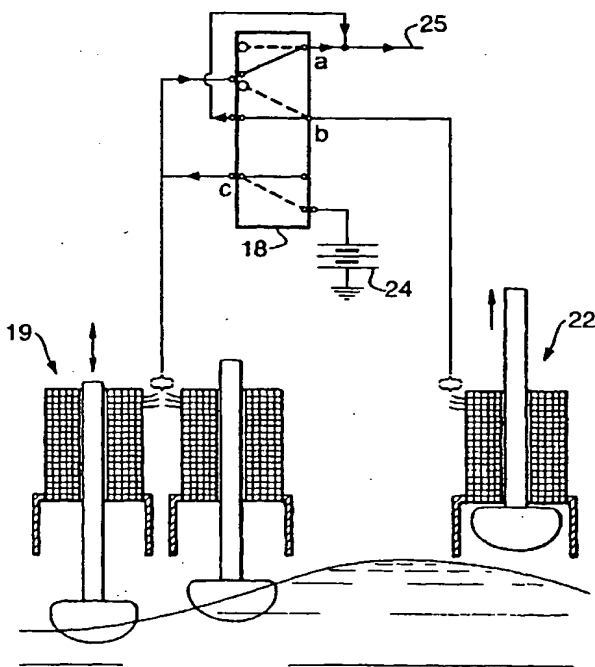
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(54) Title: METHOD OF OPERATION FOR A SELF-PROTECTING WAVE ENERGY CONVERSION PLANT



(57) Abstract: A wavefarm (10) comprises a multiplicity of  
wave energy converters, comprising linear generators (19, 20,  
21) and (22) which are driven by floats immersed in the sea,  
(14). In normal wave conditions, all of the generators supply a  
land line (17) via a control unit (18). In the event of inclement  
conditions, one of more of the generators are switched to lin-  
ear motors, and these are then powered by those generators  
remaining in the sea, to withdraw their floats into protective  
cavities (23). The process is repeated sequentially until all  
but the last one or few of the generators have withdrawn their  
floats. Finally, these last are withdrawn by connecting them  
to an alternate power source eg a battery, (24), again via the  
control unit (18).